

SITUATION REPORT NO. 22
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: February 4, 1997 TIME: 1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Special weather statements issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) during the February 3 snow storm which occurred in eastern North Dakota reported snow accumulations ranged from four to five inches of snow in the south central and southeastern portions of North Dakota, from Emmons to Richland Counties. Snow fall in northern counties ranged from one to two inches. Snow will taper off the morning of February 4 in the Red River Valley region. A NWS statement indicated many roads in the south central and southeastern portions of the state are snow covered with a coating of ice underneath.

Prior to the February 3 snow storm, NWS officials issued a detailed snow depth report for eastern North Dakota. Observers recorded the following snow depths at these locations: Adams, nine inches; Cavalier, 27 inches; Colgate, 25 inches; Cooperstown, 23 inches; Devils Lake, 23 inches; Drayton, 10 inches; Enderlin, 21 inches; Fargo, 19 inches; Fort Totten, 19 inches; Langdon, 24 inches; Lisbon, 23 inches; Pembina, 36 inches; Sheyenne, 22 inches; and Valley City, 28 inches.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: N.D. National Guard personnel anticipate that five snow blower missions will be completed today in Emmons, Griggs and Richland Counties. As work ends in these counties, completed snow removal missions will number 57. While snow blower missions factored heavily into earlier missions, counties' needs have shifted toward dozer missions. Presently, the National Guard is evaluating six requested missions incorporating the use of 14 dozers. Fourteen of the 16 National Guard missions underway require dozer work. Equipment in use includes 30 dozers, 25 tractor-trailers, 26 support vehicles, three snow blowers, and one grader. These missions are staffed by 55 Army Guard and seven Air Guard personnel. As crews return equipment to the National Guard's Organizational Maintenance Shops, technical inspections are taking place to ensure snow blowers, dozers, tractor-trailers, dump trucks, loaders, graders and support vehicles are in good working order.

The last N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) snow blower assigned to county snow removal operations was returned February 3. As work concludes, district offices are releasing contractors hired to assist N.D. DOT road crews in pushing back snow. N.D. DOT officials also reported that sand and salt supplies for the Grand Forks and the Devils Lake District Offices have been replenished. Those supplies were depleted when road crews responded to a January 30 ice storm. In response to the latest snow storm, N.D. DOT crews were working February 3-4 to clear roads in the southern tier of counties.

Statewide, county snow removal operations increased to nearly 94 percent emergency access and nearly 62 percent push back of snow on February 3. The 12 northwest counties recorded an average of nearly 97 percent emergency access and 85 percent push back of snow. In the southwest, 14 counties and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation reported an average of nearly 98 percent emergency access and nearly 83 percent push back of snow. In the northeast, 14 counties and the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation average 96 percent emergency access and nearly 36 percent push back of snow. The 12 southeastern counties averaged nearly 82 percent access and 47 percent push back of snow.

Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain Indian Reservations have joined 13 northwest and western counties as areas where snow removal efforts have been completed.

The Red Cross liaison for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region VIII is working with the North Dakota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in developing preparedness activities in anticipation of spring flooding.

The cities of Dawson and Pettibone have issued Emergency Declarations. Since the storms began, 52 counties, 69 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued Emergency or Disaster Declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Today's forecast for North Dakota calls for temperatures in the mid to upper 20s. Northwestern winds of 10 to 20 miles per hour (mph) may cause blowing and drifting snow in eastern North Dakota.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos of snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director